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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/666,364	09/20/2000	Hideo Suzuki	39303.20197.00	8624

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EXAMINER

BECKER, SHAWN M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 10/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/666,364

Applicant(s)

SUZUKI ET AL.

Examiner

Shawn M. Becker

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 July 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 14, 20, 26-30 and 33-35 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 14, 20, 26-30 and 33-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/13/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This action is responsive to the Request for Continued Examination filed 7/28/04.

#### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

The IDS filed 9/13/2004 was not available to the Examiner for viewing and will be considered in the next Office Action.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 14, 20, 26-30, and 33-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,166,314 to Weinstock et al. (hereinafter Weinstock) and "Emagic Notator Logic Sequencing software (Macintosh)" by Jim Aikin (hereinafter Aikin).

Referring to claims 1, 14, and 20, Weinstock discloses a method for editing performance data, an apparatus, and machine-readable storing data and programs on a computer system having a display. See col. 2, lines 5-10.

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Weinstock controls the computer system to display a plurality of layers on a screen of the display. See Fig. 6, which shows a graphical user interface that is divided into sections/layers showing categories of information wherein each categories of information is represented by a layer of information. Also, refer to col. 19, line 50 - col. 20, line 8.

Weinstock provides an instruction [and a receiver for receiving the instruction] for controlling the display setting of at least one of the plurality of layers, the display setting being

one of a display mode or a non-display mode. In response to the instruction, the computer system places at least one of the layers in a display mode or a non-display mode. See Fig. 9, which shows a Views menu in which the user may select which categories (layers) are displayed. The categories with a check beside them are displayed, while the ones that are unchecked are in a non-display mode. Also, refer to col. 24, lines 27-49.

While the layers of Weinstock may contain execution icons (icons associated with the execution of music; i.e. play: 618, stop: 616, fast forward: 626, among others), Weinstock does not explicitly teach attaching an execution icon at a user prescribed position in at least one of layer that is displayed on the display in response to a user instruction, wherein the execution icon corresponds to execution-related data. However, Aikin discloses sequencing software with several layers, wherein execution icons may be attached to each layer (i.e. Figs. 2-3, page 123, last full paragraph, and page 128, last full paragraph). In these sections, Aikin describes how a user selects execution icons from a palette and places them on a layer. For example, a user may select a pipes organ icon, which corresponds to how the performance is to be executed, and is therefore an execution icon. The musical notes are also execution icons pertaining to how music is to be played/executed.

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the correlated musical score interface of Weinstock with the Sequencing and editing interface of Aikin such that at least one of the layers (i.e. GUI sections) is editable such that it can have execution icons attached thereto as described by Aikin in order to edit, change, or add to the performance data according to the desired purpose (Weinstock at col. 2, lines 5-10), i.e. achieve the desired musical output or song as described in Aikin, thereby providing the user with user selected views

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of information that reduce screen clutter and optimize the view for the user's needs as taught by Weinstock (col. 24, lines 27-49).

Referring to claim 26, the prescribed position in the at least on layer, to which the execution icon is attached in Weinstock and Aikin, is determined in correspondence with progression of the performance data. For example, see Weinstock at col. 22, lines 54-67 and Aikin at page 123, col. 1.

Referring to claim 27, Weinstock discloses that each layer (category) is displayed as an execution icon layer in correspondence with the execution-related data. For example, see col. 1, lines 25-38.

Referring to claim 28, Fig. 6 of Weinstock shows one of the execution icon layers contains a tempo icon layer. See Fig. 6, 606 and 610.

Referring to claim 29, Fig. 6 of Weinstock shows that the computer system is controlled to display a name of at least one of the plurality of layers. See how the name of each category (layer) is displayed within the layer.

Referring to claim 30, it is inherent in Weinstock that a cursor (operator) is displayed that is controlled by a mouse to control at least one of the plurality of layers. See Fig. 6 and Fig. 9.

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Referring to claim 33, Weinstock and Aikin teach editing the execution icon attached onto one of the plurality of layers, and editing the performance data corresponding to the execution icon that is edited. See Weinstock at col. 21, lines 61-66. Also, see Aikin at the sections labeled "The Matrix Window" and "The Hyper Edit Window" on page 127. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the correlated musical score interface of Weinstock with the Sequencing and editing interface of Aikin in order to achieve an

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interface that correlates and edits musical data according to the liking of the musician, wherein the musician may add/edit execution icons that affect the performance data to achieve the desired musical output as taught by Aikin and correlate performance data with user selected views of information that reduce screen clutter and optimize the view for the user's needs as taught by Weinstock (col. 24, lines 27-49).

Referring to claim 34, a musical score is displayed on the screen of the display of Weinstock and Aikin so that the plurality of layers are displayed in relation to the musical score. See Weinstock at col. 19, lines 64-67, which describes rendering the accompanying score in one of the layers. Also, see Fig. 2 of Aikin.

Referring to claim 35, in response to the user instruction of Weinstock and Aikin, *supra*, the execution icon attached to the layer is selected or edited and a prescribed range of execution-related data corresponding to the execution icon that is selected or edited on the musical score is visually displayed. See Aikin at the section under "The Matrix Window" on page 127, which describes how notes or groups (range) of notes may be selected and visually edited.

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments filed 7/28/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

4. In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., that execution icons should be tempo related or accent related or that the icons are attached through a drag-and-drop procedure) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in

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light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Weinstock shows layers of a graphical user interface that contain icons (i.e. Fig. 6). These icons may be pre-set by a software program, but Aikin clearly teaches a palette for selecting execution icons and dragging them to a desired location within a GUI window (layer of a GUI). See page 123, col. 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph and page 127, column 2. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the editing features of Aikin with the graphical display of Weinstock to provide the ability to view and edit musical data within a display wherein the display space is not cluttered with unnecessary information as shown in Weinstock. Therefore, combining Weinstock and Aikin clearly teaches each limitation.

It should be noted that the terms “layer” and “execution icon” are not strictly defined by the specification or the claims, and are therefore subject to interpretation. An instrument icon pertains to how the music is to be executed and is therefore an execution icon.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shawn M. Becker whose telephone number is (703) 305-7756.

The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-6:00.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John W. Cabeza can be reached on (703) 308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

smb

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RAYMOND J. BAYERL  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
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